

## **FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Captain Isaac Paine School  
160 Foster Center Road  
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, December 17, 2013  
Open Session – 7:15 PM

1. **Convene Meeting** – the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) was called to order at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 by Chair, Kathleen Swanson.
  - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present: Chair, Kathleen Swanson, Vice Chair, Shelley Pezza, member, Ron Cervasio, Superintendent, Caroline Caswell, and FSC secretary, Mrs. McCullough.
  - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited.
2. **Public Comment** – there was no comment.
3. **Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers’ Association, Litigation – Harmony Hills and DCYF Special Education Tuition** – Executive Session was moved down on the Agenda.
4. **Building Use Requests** – there were no Building Use Requests.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Open and Executive “Sealed” Minutes of November 26, 2013. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
6. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the following: Warrant “Nov. Bills” dated November 26, 2013 for \$111,082.72, and Warrant “DEC Bills” dated Dec. 5, 2013 for \$68,967.35, and Warrant “Dec Reissue” dated December 6, 2013 for \$14,505.07. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
  - a. *Business Manager’s Report* - Michael Petrarca, FSD Business Manager, reported a closer figure for the expected deficit for 2013-2014 of \$71,355.00. He stated that with a teacher retiring at the end of December and some other revenue sources this projected deficit can be dealt with. He also supplied the FSC with Budget Guidelines for them to review. He also provided a budget analysis for FY 2014. Discussion followed. No votes were taken.
7. **Old Business (for discussion/action)**
  - a. *2012-2013 Budget* – no changes
  - b. *2013-2014 Budget* – discussion for this carried over from the Business manager’s report.
  - c. *Facilities Update* – Mr. McGovern provided a written report for the FSC review. One of the high points is the concern of oil for heating. The school has a managing computer

system which controls the HAVC and adjusts the temperatures at different times of the day. He also reported that a drain pipe froze and backed up creating a ceiling leak but since the melt it is flowing with no problem.

*d. Technology Update*

- 1) PARCC Plan – Dr. Caswell described the testing plan that will begin in the spring of 2014. In the spring the test can be administered written but in the future the test will require a computer.

*e. Capital Projects* – Dr. Caswell outlined and explained the Capital projects. She will be meeting with the Planning Board on January 15, 2014 in the evening.

**8. New Business (for discussion/action)**

- a. West Bay Collaborative – Membership* – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza the FSC voted to authorize the Chair to write a letter giving a six (6) month notice to terminate membership with the West Bay Collaborative. Foster, Gloucester, and Foster/Glocester Regional school districts will have membership with the Northern Collaborative.

- b. Personnel – Lay-offs – Custodians & FELT Personnel, Resignations - Teacher, Appointments* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to terminate the part-time custodial position. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

Vote = 2-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mr. Cervasio – abstained

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC accepted the letter of retirement as of June 30, 2014 for Mrs. Virginia Giacobone, grade three (3) with regret. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Long Term Substitute (LTS) for fourth grade (Fran Stahlbush retired). Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- c. Educator Evaluation Coordinator Contract – Termination* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC terminated the Educator Evaluation Coordinator Contract. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- d. Budget Workshop – Schedule* – the FSC scheduled the following dates for FSD Budget Workshops: Monday, February 3, 2014 at 1:00 pm, Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 7:00 pm, and Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 7:00 pm.
- e. Kindergarten*

- 1) Entrance Age – The FSC invited Brendon Mara, Foster resident and parent, to speak to the FSC about considering entrance of students who turn five after the required date of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion followed. No votes were taken.

- 2) *Enrollment Projections 2014-2015* – F.E.L.T. Director, Leslie Morrissey, reported that there are 26 children at this time age-eligible for Kindergarten in the fall of 2014-2015.

## **9. Communication/Reports**

- a. *Correspondence* – FELT Survey – 30 Families responded.
- b. *Principal's Report* – Mrs. Kristen Danusis, Principal, reported that she is looking for Grants. She has applied for a \$10,000 Grant through R.I.D.E. for Math and is waiting to hear. There will be a day of training for PARCC in January.
- c. *Superintendent's Report* – Had nothing further to report.

## **10. Future Agenda Items –**

Kindergarten – entrance age & enrollment  
Full Day Kindergarten impact with First Grade

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to go into **Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers' Association, Litigation – Harmony Hills and DCYF Special Education Tuition** at 8:35 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to reconvene Open Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Kathleen Swanson, Chair, reported that collective bargaining and litigation for Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers' Association were discussed and litigation of Harmony Hill and DCYF Special Education Tuition was also discussed. No votes were taken.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to "Seal" the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

**11. Adjournment** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to adjourn at 9:23 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough  
Secretary Foster School Committee